

**US 101 REGIONAL CIRCULATION PROJECT
STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING #3
Port of Grays Harbor Commission Chamber
October 18, 2006
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Meeting Summary**

ATTENDEES:

Stakeholder Committee

Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam
Gary Nelson, Port of Grays Harbor
Leonard Barnes, Port of Grays Harbor
Cheryl Turner, City of Cosmopolis
Candie Gleason, GH Economic Dev. Council
LeRoy Tipton, GH Chamber of Commerce
Commissioner Mike Wilson, GH County

Larry Bledsoe, City of Aberdeen
John Green, Aberdeen Police Dept.
Dave Carlberg, Aberdeen Fire Dept.
Paul Dean, Hoquiam Fire Dept.
Commissioner Al Carter, GH County
Commissioner Bob Beerbower, GH County

Guests

Laurel Ulatala, Union Gospel Mission
C. Durham, Diesel Power and Electric

Ian and Janice Gegg
Al Bowman

Staff

Vicki Cummings, GH Council of Governments
Theresa Julius, GH Council of Governments
Nancy Trask, GH Council of Governments
John Perlic, Parametrix
Joshua Johnson, Parametrix
Leroy Slemmer, Exeltech Consulting
Bernie Chaplin, Exeltech Consulting

Nazmul Alam, WSDOT
Bob Jones, WSDOT
Yvette Liufau, WSDOT
Vicki Steigner, WSDOT
Marcus Cuoio, WSDOT
Chris Runner, Exeltech Consulting

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Vicki Cummings, Executive Director for the Grays Harbor Council of Governments (GHCOG). The project team was introduced and includes Vicki Cummings and Nazmul Alam (WSDOT) as Project Leads, John Perlic, Josh Johnson, Bernie Chaplin, Leroy Slemmer and Chris Runner as technical assistance, Yvette Liufau and Marcus Cuoio from WSDOT, and Theresa Julius and Nancy Trask from the Grays Harbor Council of Governments.

II. Public Comments from September 26 Open House

Vicki Cummings talked about the well attended September 26 Open House. The attendees were given three dots and were provided the opportunity to vote on the projects of their preference. Vicki referred the Committee to two handouts, 1] a summary of the meeting that details what was available and the comments that were returned, and 2] the results of the community dot vote.

She pointed out that the study use of Market Street as a 4-lane roadway feeding into the truck route scored high, and also scoring high was a complete bypass to the north of Aberdeen and Hoquiam called the North Corridor. This project is identified in Appendix B of the Hoquiam-Aberdeen EIS.

III. Initial Priority Ranking List

John Perlic presented the top ten projects recommended by the Technical Team; those top ten are as follows:

- **Truck Route Alternative**
 - Truck Route Alternative – Full [Ranked #1]
 - Truck Route Alternative – West Quarter [Ranked #4]
 - Truck Route Alternative – Half [Ranked #5]
 - Truck Route Alternative – East Quarter [Ranked #9]
- **Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)** [Ranked #2]
- **Tri-City Operation Improvements** [Ranked #3]
- **Improve Port Industrial Road** [Ranked #5]
- **Cosmopolis Downtown Revitalization** [Ranked #5]
- **Rail Car Storage Yard East of Aberdeen** [Ranked #5]
- **Replace Existing Hoquiam Bridges** [Ranked #10]
- **Relocate Rail Line South of Port Industrial Road to Eliminate All At Grade Crossings** [Ranked #11]
- **Complete seismic upgrades to Area Bridges** [Ranked #12]
- **Alternate Access to Wishkah Mall and Relocate Rail** [Ranked #13]

IV. Cost Estimate Presentation

Bernie Chaplin and Leroy Slemmer of Exeltech Consulting presented the cost estimates for the top ten projects. Leroy contacted the cities of Hoquiam, Aberdeen and Cosmopolis as well as WSDOT for information in determining costs. Leroy stated that the costs for steel and concrete have increased by 30% in the past year.

Leroy presented the total cost per project as follows:

- **Truck Route Alternative**
 - Truck Route Alternative – Full - \$386 M
 - Truck Route Alternative – West Quarter - \$169 M
 - Truck Route Alternative – Half - \$217 M
 - Truck Route Alternative – East Quarter - \$193 M
- **Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)** - \$ 9 M
- **Tri-City Operation Improvements** - \$10 M
- **Improve Port Industrial Road** - \$4 M

- **Cosmopolis Downtown Revitalization - \$2 M**
- **Rail Car Storage Yard East of Aberdeen - \$4 M**
- **Replace Existing Hoquiam Bridges - \$154 M**
- **Relocate Rail Line South of Port Industrial Road to Eliminate All At Grade Crossings - \$8 M**
- **Complete seismic upgrades to Area Bridges - \$15 M**
- **Alternate Access to Wishkah Mall and Relocate Rail - \$4 M**

Leroy discussed the idea of having one type of parking for everybody in the Wishkah Mall area. Phase I at a cost of \$300,000 would be to re-design the parking lot to improve circulation. Phase II would be to build a frontage road at a cost of \$3.9 million. Relocating the rail behind the mall buildings has too many major flaws and not enough room. Leonard Barnes stated the rail needs to get on the drawing board soon because of the growth. The fire and police departments spoke on how difficult it is to get aid to the Wishkah Mall when the train is traveling through and blocking all entrances. It was suggested that possibly a land culvert could be built under the railroad tracks that emergency responders only would access.

V. Priority Ranking List Discussion

The Stakeholder Committee discussed in detail the initial priority ranking list of projects and chose the following projects to be given to Senator Doumit:

Priority #1 Full Truck Route Alternative

The Full Truck Route Alternative was identified as the top priority project. As an alternative to funding the entire truck route, the Stakeholder Committee recommended moving forward with the project in increments. The first priority would be to fund re-evaluation of the EIS and then fund preliminary engineering to determine the phasing of the project.

Priority #2 Tri-City Operational Improvements

The Tri-City Operational Improvements project provides more than 20 needed short-term improvements in Hoquiam, Aberdeen and Cosmopolis.

Priority #3 Wishkah Mall Access Improvements

This project would alleviate identified traffic problems caused by access issues in two phases. The first phase would fund emergency vehicle access, turning movement and access revisions, signal interconnection and re-striping the internal parking area. The second phase would fund analysis and construction of an alternate access road on the north side of US 12. The project includes public involvement, right-of-way acquisition, preliminary engineering and construction.

Priority #4 Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

This project would identify specific locations, design and install ITS devices such as Variable Message Signs, photo enforcement cameras, closed circuit television, and Highway Advisory Radio.

Priority #5 Improve Port Industrial Road

The Port Industrial Road project would improve capacity, traffic flow and safety by providing right and left turn lanes at key intersections and other improvements as identified in the Port Industrial Road Strategic Analysis.

Maintenance Priority - Seismic Improvements

The Stakeholder Committee determined seismic improvements were the top maintenance priority. Completion of this project is necessary to maintain access to regional hospitals, and fire and police protection in the event of a natural disaster. The three area bridges which need funding for completion of seismic upgrades are the Chehalis River Bridge, the Heron Street Bridge, and the Riverside Bridge.

VII. Wrap Up/Adjourn

Vicki concluded the meeting explaining what the next steps are. Vicki will be meeting with Senator Doumit on October 25 in Pacific County. The Pacific County Council of Governments, our counterpart, is going through a similar process to identify issues along US 101. Our list and Pacific County's list will be presented to the Senator before he leaves office on November 1st. This is our opportunity of letting Senator Doumit know we appreciate what he did, thanking him; and giving him the list of prioritized projects.

The list will be shared with our Stakeholders, our Coastal Caucus as well as with our community members. We are still holding our final public open house on November 14.

This was the third and final meeting of the Stakeholder Committee. The next steps are as follows:

- Provide ranked list to Senator Doumit October 25, 2006
- Share list with Coastal Caucus
- Public Open House November 14, 2006
- Draft Report January 2007
- Final Report March 2007

WSDOT has a dedicated web site for this project at:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/studies/US101/Aberdeen

There being no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.